out in India to this effect.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, the question of issuing guidelines does not arise, but the Directorate General of health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has initiated a Pilot Project on Control of Cardiovascular Diseases during 1995-96 under which it is proposed to educate the people regarding the prevention and control of heart diseases.

**Government Proposal to Advice State Government for employees' Health Care**

4059. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government must pay for staff health care" appearing in "Times of India" dated 11th January, 1997; and

(b) if so, the steps Central Governement propose to take for advising the State Governement to provide for health care to its employees including the retired personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As health is a State subject, it is the duty of the State Government to provide health care facilities to their employees, including the retired personnel.

**Deaths Due to Tobacco Consumption**

4060. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the apoproximate number of deaths due to tobacco consumption in the counrty annually; and

(b) the measures proposed to discourage people chewing and consuming betels, pan masala, cigarette, bidi etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) It is estimated that about 8 lakh people die per year due to tobacco related disease in the country.

(b) Following measures have been taken to discourage consumption of betels, pan masala, cigarettes, bidi etc.

1. As per the Cigarettes (Regulation of production, supply and Distribution) Act, 1975, it is mandatory to display health warning on all cartons/packets of cigarettes.

2. Direct advertisement relating to tobacco or tobacco related products are prohibited on Doordarshan.

3. Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, it is mandatory to display—

(i) Statutory warning of "chewing of tobacco is injurious to health" on the package of chewing tobacco;

(ii) Statutory warning on the advertisement and label of pan masala stating "chewing of pan masala may be injurious to health";

(iii) Statutory warning on every package of supari and advertisement relating thereto in bold print stating "Chewing of supari is injurious to health";

Under the Pilot Project on comprehensive Oral Health Care emphasis is given to discourage consumption of Tobacco through community awareness.

5. State/Union Territory Governments have been advised from time to time, to discourage the sale of pan masala and similar products at Super Bazar, Kendriya Bahandar, shops in Government buildings and all Health and Educational Institutions as also to give due publicity about harmful effects of consumption of pan masala and chewing tobacco.